ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method is provided for seamless migration from static to agile optical networking at a network switching node in an optical transport network. The seamless method includes: providing an optical signal splitter at the input of the network switching node, the signal splitter being adapted to receive an optical multiplexed signal having a plurality of data signals and at least one data signal being agile; providing an optical signal combiner at the output of the network switching node; and introducing a photonic cross-connect switch between the signal splitter and the signal combiner, where the photonic switch is operable to switch the agile data signals.